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FLOOR DEBATE

May 31, 2005

LB 245, 484, 749

reflected in LB 749, which was heard by the Business and Labor Committee earlier this year. There was no opposition testimony, and the bill was advanced out of committee in an amended form, without any dissenting votes. Essentially what the bill does, in the amended form, is prohibit young people, ages 14 and 15, from being employed, and I underscore the word "employed," as door-to-door salespersons. The Lincoln Police Department came to me earlier this year and asked me to carry the bill for them. There's been some difficulties with a group called Teens of Tomorrow, which is a group that is headed up by a man who has a knack, apparently, of winning the confidence of young people and enticing them into selling \$7 candy bars door to door, on the guise that some of the money might eventually go to a charitable endeavor, when in reality the kids who do this earn very, very little money. The man who runs the program apparently takes the lion's share, and we don't know if any of it ever goes to a charitable endeavor. The kids are taken in vans off to distant neighborhoods, sometimes even distant cities, where they are out of contact with their family. There's no communications, and they sometimes find themselves in very awkward and dangerous situations. And the police departments in Lincoln and Omaha have been concerned about this for some time, but haven't been able to stop it. The bill, and I want to stress this, the bill in no way stops Girl Scout cookie sales or Boy Scouts who might sell popcorn, or whatever Boy Scouts sell these days. It doesn't stop school groups from sending kids out door to door, trying to raise money in charitable efforts, because those are not employment situations. Those are charities. What this bill only relates to is employer/employee relationships. And it provides simply that children ages 14 and 15 cannot be employed as door-to-door salespersons. That's the substance of the amendment from my perspective, and at this point I'd like to yield to Senator Loudon, so he can speak to his portion of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Loudon, about 7, 15.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you. AM1748 to LB 484 contains my bill, which was LB 245. LB 245 is in the Business and Labor Committee, having had its public hearing on January 31. The